

Jacksonville Building Trades

By J. C. Cotton

Editor of The Sun:

Having read your journal for seven weeks, and, much to my gratification, see that your columns are open to all worthy causes and that you play no favorites, I ask that you give space to the following, which I believe to be of especial interest at this time to a large number of your readers:

Very few people outside of the members of organized labor understand what the Building Trades Alliance of this city actually is, so a few words of explanation will not be amiss. It is an organization composed of delegates from each trades union in Jacksonville engaged in building or constructing, in other words, a general head through which the interests of all local unions are protected, living up to the maxim, the rights of one is the concern of all, therefore when a building trade is militated against the whole number takes up the fight.

The Building Trades are to-day in a most flourishing condition, working in complete harmony, and everything points to a continuance of prosperity, which is altogether at variance with the belief of some, that the unions had "lost out" in their controversy with the Builders' Exchange, and those same people to-day are realizing their mistake.

When the misunderstanding arose, some members of the unions listened to the sweet song of the bosses and continued to work on the "open shop" basis, but later discovered that the promises of good pay, long life and continued happiness was as an empty dream, and to-day are exerting every influence to regain their membership in local unions.

But the most potent factor in winning the lock-out for the unions is the fact that a large number of property-owners who had buildings constructed by contractors who work on the "open shop" plan, are thoroughly dissatisfied, and have refused to let any more contracts on that basis, contending (and rightly) that it requires good men to do good work, and that they could only be found in the ranks of organized labor.

To-day at least 70 per cent of the building going on in this city is being done by members of the Building Trades, and if this statement is doubted in the least, one has only to make a trip over the city, question the men seen working, and it will be fully verified.

Contractors are coming into the field every day who are thoroughly qualified and responsible, and they are getting the cream of the work. A large number of these contractors formerly were foremen or superintendents for members of the Exchange before the misunderstanding arose by the members of the Exchange demanding the "open shop." These self-same contractors are in business to stay, and if they made a success for their employers they certainly can make a success for themselves.

There is to-day no further contention that the "open shop" will be established in Jacksonville, therefore argument along that line is wholly unnecessary.

There is also no further contention but that the unions are a necessity, for every man with an ounce of gray matter inside his cranium has long since decided in their favor; therefore no argument is necessary.

Unions do not deny any class of business men the right to organize (but some business men do not grant the same right to their workmen), but they do claim that when any set of men organize (as the Builders' Exchange has done) for the purpose of destroying unions, can never be successful; but an association organized for the purpose of working in harmony with each other and in harmony with union labor, and who do not attempt to gull the public, would be more than a success and a credit to Jacksonville.

As the present Builders' Exchange is now conducted it is not a benefit to its members or any other class of citizens, as can easily be understood by reading its constitution and examining its methods of transacting business. Rule 2 of its constitution and by-laws reads: "Local building material dealers and local representatives of foreign manufacturers who are members of this association shall give contractors and sub-con-

tractors preferential prices on goods as compared with prices named to others."

Now, I ask, is this treating the general public right? Is it just for men doing business in this city who are depending on the public for their support, to say that they will sell cheaper to members of their association? In other words, it is an attempt to force the public to give all work to a favored few.

I fully believe that if the business men of this city would take the trouble to investigate the workings of the Builders' Exchange they in future would give their work to such contractors who employ only union men.

WHAT AN EDITOR WRITES IN HIS LONG LIFE.

Rochefort will be able to celebrate his fiftieth anniversary as an editor and writer if he lives a few months longer. As to the amount of work he has done in that half-century, he said recently:

"For the last fifty years I have written at least one editorial daily, each at least 150 lines long. If I had been paid by the line, I would have received a penny for 54,000 lines per annum, or in fifty years for 2,700,000 lines, equal to ten times as many words.

"Put in book form, that amount of matter would fill 300 volumes of the kind that sell in France for 3 francs 50.

"The average length of my daily articles was between twenty-seven and twenty-eight inches. Hence if the articles I wrote were pasted together they would measure more than 50,000 feet.

"The 2,700,000 lines I wrote measured each three inches in length. Pieced together that would mean 115 miles of printed manuscript. You will admit there are few authors who did as well."

As to quantity, Rochefort is undoubtedly right. Of modern writers Dumas' father alone equaled his activity with the pen, being credited with about 200 volumes. When Rochefort began his career, all Europe and America listened to the witty detribes of La Lanterne, which contributed largely to the downfall of the third Napoleon. But old age has not made Rochefort wittier or more respected. He has but few admirers now, and his paper has just changed from a morning sheet to an evening edition, doubtless for very good reasons.

HUSBAND OF FORMER MISS MARION PHELPS ON BISMARCK AND SCHURZ.

Baron Rottenburg, the husband of the former Miss Marion Phelps of New Jersey, daughter of the late W. W. Phelps, tells the following good story on Bismarck and Schurz:

"Bismarck had instructed me to send in a red map whenever a visitor remained too long in his cabinet. The red map is used for letters and documents, demanding immediate attention. If the red map wouldn't work, I was to send in word that an imperial adjutant general had arrived to see the Prince on the Kaiser's business.

"Once Carl Schurz of New York came to see his Grace. The American remained thirty minutes; he stayed forty-five minutes. The Prince, I thought, will be furious, and dispatched the red map in accordance with instructions.

"After a few minutes the messenger returned. 'No use,' he said, 'even an imperial adjutant general couldn't separate them. They are head over heels in reminiscences, and the Prince told me to bring in a couple of bottles of Moselle and plenty of cigars.'"

RUSSIAN CRUISER OREL A FINE ADDITION TO THE JAPANESE NAVY.

The Iwani arrived at Tokio, as fine a battleship as one wants to see. The Russians called her Orel, and the Japs captured her in the battle of May 28. At that time the Russian newspapers told hair-raising stories of the sufferings of the crew; 157 wounded men were said to have been thrown into the sea, and all the officers were declared dead. As a matter of fact, the Orel's losses were 16 dead and 16 wounded, not a large per-

centage when it is considered that the crew of the battleship numbered 780.

The Russians furthermore asserted that the ship surrendered only after all its guns had been placed hors de combat. As a matter of fact, the Japs found very little to repair. All integral parts of the ship were intact, the armor belt showed not a single hole, and only two of the many guns were dismounted. It cost the Mikado less than \$10,000 to repair the ship and make it an ornament of his navy.

A BANK ROBBER'S AND HIS MISTRESS' WARDROBE.

In Paris, the thirty-seven giant trunks containing the wardrobe of the captured bank thief Galley and his mistress, Mlle. Merelli, have at last arrived from South America, and their contents were displayed before the grand jury. Among other things, fifty complete suits and forty-five extra fancy vests were found. The enormous stock of linen was embroidered with an earl's coronet, and Galley nearly had a fit when he saw that some of the finery had been crushed in the packing. A big square box, weighing nearly a ton, contained mademoiselle's forty evening dresses and twenty-eight hats. There was perfumed soap enough to wash half of Paris, and a silver box contained a dozen golden eyeglasses. One trunk was entirely filled with gloves, another with patent leather boots, a third with yellow boots and shoes. Galley swore at the South Americans, who had robbed him of at least 4,000 francs' worth of handkerchiefs and silk nightshirts. His mistress complained that the manuscript of the latest romance had been stolen. Incidentally she said she had no reason to be sorry, as she was as innocent as a lamb.

Founded on a Rock

that will hold it up as long as honest values hold the public confidence, is the

House of Cable

If offers to discriminating buyers all that is best in the line of

PIANOS & ORGANS

Easy Payments if desired

VISIT OR WRITE TO

The Cable Co.
Jacksonville, Fla.

The Florida Ostrich Farm

Offers to the visitor

AMUSEMENT AND INSTRUCTION

PLUCKINGS MADE DAILY

Interesting and novel sight

BUY FROM PRODUCERS AND SAVE TWO PROFITS

THE
Florida Ostrich Farm

Jacksonville, Florida

TAKE FAIRFIELD CAR

YOU CAN'T DO
BETTER THAN TO SELECT
YOUR CHRISTMAS
PRESENT FROM OUR
STOCK

Feather Boas
Feather Fans
Ostrich Plumes
Ostrich Tips

Florida East Coast Hotel Company

HOTEL PONCE DE LEON

St. Augustine

Opens Tuesday, January 9, 1906
Closes Saturday, April 7, 1906

HOTEL ROYAL POINCIANA

Palm Beach, on Lake Worth

Opens Thursday, January 11, 1906
Closes Monday, April 2, 1906

HOTEL ALCAZAR

St. Augustine

Now open
Closes Saturday, April 21, 1906

HOTEL ROYAL PALM

Miami

Opens Monday, January 8, 1906
Closes Tuesday, April 3, 1906

HOTEL ORMOND

Ormond-on-the-Halfax

Opens Tuesday, January 9, 1906
Closes Monday, April 9, 1906

HOTEL COLONIAL

Nassau, N. P. (Bahama Islands)

Opens Tuesday, January 9, 1906
Closes Monday, April 2, 1906

HOTEL THE BREAKERS

Palm Beach-by-the-Sea

Now open
Closes Saturday, April 7, 1906

HOTEL THE CONTINENTAL

Atlantic Beach

Opens Thursday, March 15, 1906
Closes during August